

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-02) today announced bi-partisan legislation to expand the Jimmy Carter National Historic site located in Plains, Ga. Proposed improvements include the creation of a park campground, development of a multi-use trail and enhanced facilities for the maintenance and curatorial functions.

"Jimmy Carter possesses a level of commitment to his country and the cause of humanity that has only rarely been matched," Bishop said. "The Jimmy Carter National Historic site does a remarkable job of helping people to understand the values that shaped this great Georgian. This bill will ensure that the site will continue to inspire generations of visitors, as well as grow and positively impact the economies of Plains and Sumter County through increased opportunities for tourism."

Specifically, the legislation seeks to make the following improvements:

- * Establish camping facilities at the Georgia Welcome Center, located on U.S. Highway 280 in Plains;
- * Create a multi-use trail that would run along the Southwest Georgia Railroad lines and connect the new campground, the city of Plains and the boyhood farm;
- * Develop a new site for the park's maintenance facility and curatorial storage;
- * Acquire the property that was Billy Carter's gas station, as well as the "Haunted House," the oldest house in Sumter County, where the Carters lived before their current residence.

"I took lessons I learned growing up in Plains to the White House and beyond," President Carter said. "I see this legislation, which has the potential to improve tourism and other areas of the local economy, as a way for me, in some small way, to give back to Plains all that it did for me."

The Jimmy Carter National Historic Site and Preservation District was established by Congress in 1987. The current historic site consists of the Plains Railroad depot, Jimmy Carter's boyhood home, Plains High School, the Carter Compound (Carter's current residence), and 100 feet of scenic easements along both sides of U.S. Highway 280. For more information about the park, visit www.nps.gov/jica.